S. D. Nickerson Masonic Tem.

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The FREEMASON

* * * * * * * * AND THE FEZ.

A Masonic and Fraternal Monthly Magazine

VOLUME V. OCTOBER, 1897. NO. 10.

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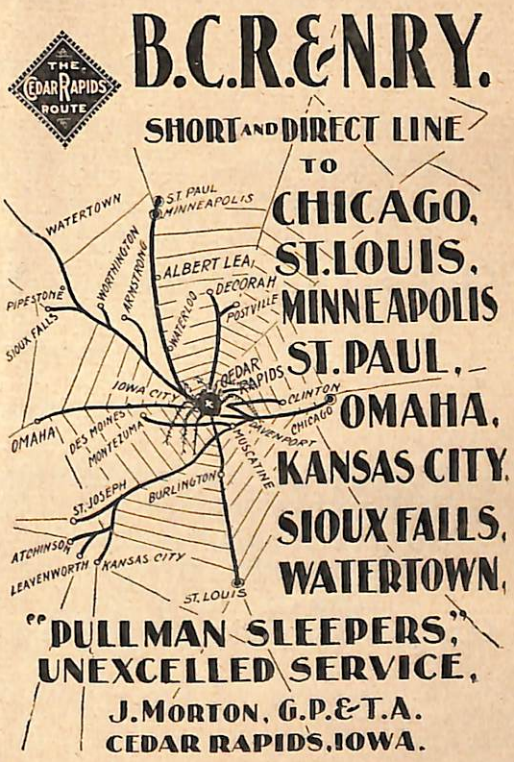

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J. A. DOVERMAN, Sec'y,
Masonic Temple, Des Moines, Iowa.

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SAY:- Don't we want a live Masonic Journal in Iowa? If so, help us, by sending us all the HALF RATE subscriptions you can.

The FREEMASON AND THE FEZ.

In the Interests of Freemasonry, the Concordant Orders of Iowa, and Fraternity Generally.

VOLUME V. CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, OCTOBER, 1897. NUMBER 10.

VINDICTIVE, CONTEMPTIBLE, CRUEL.

Some things go in their trended direction till the end comes. The encouragement from quarters one least expect a little brief authority to promote, bears its legitimate fruit and the evil work is done. We have found a case under our PERSONAL observation that for vindictive, contemptible cruelty out-strips all the record of the misuse of Masonic office to base ends. A brother, who has been repeatedly assaulted by missive and charges, was anxiously watching beside his seriously sick wife, many weeks of severe suffering had reduced her to a state of nervous prostration that made her case critical. In the midst of it all, with no imminent danger that the culprit could or would escape—his Royal Arch Chapter is made the vehicle of the meanest stab by the presentation of charges vague and indefinite, served in a manner to leave no doubt of the fell purpose to hurt, to harm, and for what they cared, to kill. The effect was equal to the most sanguine desire of the persecutors, such reaction and further danger to the life of the blameless wife of the Companion ensued that it has been a question of the most serious kind whether she could overcome it This is no imaginary case but an actual occurence. The movers in the matter found the easily persuaded Companions upon whom to load the burden of doing their work and no doubt have thought to enjoy the consternation it would cause when the matter reached its climax. The manner of the service of notice was mean and uncalled for; the Companion had been in and out of the place of business of the Secretary, (who sells drugs, etc.) to answer telephone calls all day, but the witching hour of nine on Saturday night—just before the Sabbath—was chosen to interrupt a call at the phone to give added pungency to the troubled husband's fear for his companion's life. We have wondered where the much lauded tenets of Masonry draw the line, and whether there is not somewhere a jurisprudent limit to this sort of man-hunting. Were this the only case it might go unchallenged, but it is not. Others, and almost equally flagrant, with other men, whose prosecution in the bodies is openly talked of among profanes as for a temporary and selfish advantage, make it necessary to call attention to the need of rigid inspection to stop the intrusion of disturbers among the workmen. The end will come. It has not yet, but it will, and when it does, it will be emphatic.

WILL YOU READ THIS?

For four years we've been pegging away trying to hold the field in the hope that we could find ways and means to widen out to what we regard as the class of journal Iowa Masonry deserves. We have fallen far short, for which we are some to blame, but not all. Now we want advice.

WILL YOU GIVE IT?

1. What feature of this paper pleases you or helps you in any way? Say why.

2. What subjects do you want to hear from? What articles have you liked, which disliked in the past?

3. What weakness do you find to criticise in the journal? Any to commend?

If you will jot down a line, we will thank any of our readers for it and will ask that they be directed to the editor at Marion.

Down in Pennsylvania, Masonic picnics are out of order. Its agin the law.

FRATERNITIES.

The editor of this journal is the Deputy Grand Master Workman of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and as such is looking for openings to plant lodges of that body everywhere he can; but it does not necessarily prejudice him against the good points of other fraternities. Information will be used for the common good in this department. Address, Drawer E, Marion Iowa.

Fraternity still lives.

The ritual of the Degree of Rebecca, I. O. O. F. is to be revised.

The urging of a man to care for his loved ones is a divine work.

The Fraternal Congress met in Port Huron, Michigan, October 6, 1897.

There are some orders that will have to quit CHEAP JOHNING or it will sour on them.

The amount it costs to protect a family for a whole year is often smoked up in six months, and oftener drank up in less.

We invite information for this department on the workings of different orders in different parts of the state and also the news in brief.

The woods are full of new things, at all kinds of advantages, and at prices to beat Klondyke. Our advice is touch lightly till you know what it is and what it is worth.

The cost of carrying $2,000 protection for a family in Iowa, amounts to an average of less than $20 a year with all the safeguards of any old line company in the world.

The fraternal features of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition are to be a large and respectable part. Many grand bodies meet there next year. Omaha is a good town to go to.

We had a short talk with brother Jewell of Manchester, who is now identified with the finance committee of the Woodmen of the World, who he says are having a phenominal growth.

If readers of the public press will take the trouble to note it they will find that agents and the press reports began simultaneously to announce the failure of Mutual Assessment Insurance—following the Massachusetts Mutual fiasco.

The readers of newspapers should watch and favor the ones that do justice to their great cause. A prize fight or a church scandal would get a column while the far more important fraternal gathering will get a line or two, but mostly, get left.

The old liners are as rapid in their gait as ever, we have had an experience with one that will make good reading when the time comes. We want a little more lying done and his DEAD-BEATSHIP to get a few twists from another direction then our turn will come.

An old liner was pointing out the weaknesses of the benefit order certificates from a book published by the Spectator company, N. Y. When we asked him to show us his red-lining on the A. O. U. W. he said, "we have no fight with you people." a good reason, they're 370,000 strong.

The Masons and Odd Fellows Union Aid Association of Manchester, this year has carried its policy holders over with only three of the quarterly premiums called for. The well-known gentlemen, Max Beehler and A. L. Beardslee, are the pushers for this company in which we are proud to hold a policy.

The latest news we have seen is that the Modern Woodmen have had the injunction issued by the Fulton people dissolved, and had removed the records to Rock Island, where a seventy-five thousand dollar building is to be erected for the head offices. The whole affair is to be regretted as the life long bitterness created will always be a source of annoyance.

We have received the "Red Cross Gazette" of Chicago, Ill., the organ of the O. R. C. and K. R. C. It is a readable sheet. The "A. O. U. W. Guide" St. Paul, is another welcome visitor to our sanctum. It is the official paper of the jurisdiction of Minnesota. The "Michigan Herald" is the welcome visitant from Belding, Michigan, that bears the official dispatches of the great Order of Workmen in its territory. "The Anchor and Shield" is the third of the A. O. U. W. papers to come in and it is the peer of the best of its kind and represents the Illinois Workmen with its full columns. We note from it that P. S. M. W. Tate has been in Illinois.

The year 1898 promises to be a memorable one in secret society circles in the United States, a number of the principal fraternal orders having decided to hold their official grand lodge meetings in Omaha during the season of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition. The Fraternal Congress, composed of the representatives of many of the leading orders, will meet in Port Huron, Michigan, this year. The sessions held by the Congress are of special interest to those who attend, and embrace discussions, addresses by eminent men and women and the reading of papers on topics intended to improve and benefit the growth of fraternalism and its features.

The presence of a substantial reminder of our forethought, will be a more enduring comfort to our loved ones than any spiritual visitation we might make to them after death. The means to be comfortable will lay the restless ghost that might walk by night in the widows mind. I have no idea that the return of "the departed" would serve as much of a pleasure to a bereaved wife or orphaned children if the restless ghost merely came to confess his sin of neglect to protect them, a fact that they would know and deplore as much as he. For years, I have never seen a funeral pass by but that the question has come to me, "I wonder if he left her who mourns him any substantial evidence of his devotion." The sad part of bereavement is written in lines of neglect upon too many faces—the faces of patient women.

THE EASTERN STAR.

Owing to the prevalence of the dengue fever in San Antonio, Texas, their Grand Chapter is postponed until Nov. 9 next.

We have had invitations to visit the Grand Chapters of California, Texas, Missouri, Michigan, and Illinois. To all we have had to send our regrets.

The wife of the Grand Patron has been very ill for many weeks with fever but we have hopes of her being able to accompany him to the Grand Chapter this month.

This year the addresses of the Grand Officers will be read by the members and not by the G. M. and G. P., a saving of time and a loss of performance that won't be regretted so far as we are concerned.

If all past officers of whatever rank or station could learn how annoying it is to their elected and installed successors to have them still act as if the old was not off with the new, and hear some of the remarks we hear, they would, if ladies, step aside, if men, take their feet out of the trough.

From the letter of Sister Lorraine J. Pitkin, R. W. Grand Secretary we are informed that the General Grand Chapter will meet in Washington, D. C., following the Triennial Conclave which will be at Pittsburg, the second Tuesday in October.

The Grand Matron spent part of a day in consultation with the G. P. at Cedar Rapids and called to see the sick wife on September 17th and 18th. She visited the Cedar Chapter, 184, while here. She has been doing about the usual amount of instituting this year.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

It is a subject of some importance to ask the question at the head of this item. With the prejudice that still exists, the wrong startings in some communities, and the heart burnings that are stirred up by the carelessness of some who ought to know better, leads us to ask in all sincerity, what of the future? With its splendid possible influence in the Masonic communities of Iowa, there ought to be twenty-five thousand women who should find the "Light, purity and joy" of the Order. One abuse to be remedied is the pernicious innovation from the men's bodies, the single black ball rejection. We have no use for anything that is not sufficiently strong through a majority vote, when it is based upon such prerequisites for membership as is this order. With this adjustment we should look for a four fold increase in the next year.

GRAND CHAPTER.

The Twentieth Annual Session will convene in Ottumwa, Iowa. The school will open Tuesday afternoon, October 26th at 2 o'clock. The local chapter gives an entertainment, "Ottumwa male quartette" in the evening.

Wednesday morning at 10 a. m. the Grand Chapter will convene.

Reduced rates on all roads on the certificate plan.

Headquarters at the Ballingal House. J. E. Manchester or Mrs. Elizabeth A. Simmons, 168 E Maple avenue, Ottumwa, are persons to write to for hotel accommodations.

The proceedings of the Grand Chapter, O. E. S. of Indian Territory for 1897 are out and at hand.

THE FREEMASON AND THE FEZ.

Published Monthly

In the interest of Freemasonry in Iowa, and Fraternity generally.

JOHN WESTLEY GEIGER, K T., 32°, EDITOR.
P. O. Drawer E, Marion, Iowa, for all business and exchanges.

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Address all correspondence to
JOHN WESTLEY GEIGER, Editor.
Drawer E, Marion, Iowa.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, OCT. 1897.

GRAND GATHERINGS.

GRAND LODGES MEET.

Iowa, Council Bluffs, June 7, 1898.

A. R. DEWEY,.....Washington.....GRAND MASTER
T. S. Parvin.....Cedar Rapids.....Grand Secretary

CONVOCATIONS, R. A. M.

General Grand (U. S.) Baltimore, Md., Oct. 12, 1897.
Iowa, Grand, Burlington, August 25th, 1898.

W. D. IRVINE....Sioux City.....GRAND HIGH PRIEST
Alf. Wingate.....Des Moines.....Grand Secretary

CONCLAVES K. T.

Grand Encampment, Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 1898.
Iowa Grand, Templar Park, July —, 1898.

F. H. LORING,.....Waterloo.....GRAND COMMANDER
Alf. Wingate.....Des Moines.....Grand Recorder

GRAND CHAPTERS O. E. S.

General Grand (U. S.) 1898.
Iowa, Ottumwa, Oct. 27, 1897.

MRS. DELIA B. MEREDITH..Newton..GRAND MATRON
John Westley Geiger....Marion.....Grand Patron
Mrs. Maria Jackson...Council Bluffs.....Grand Recorder

THE MYSTIC SHRINE.

Imperial Council, Dallas, Texas, June 14, 1898.
El-Kahir Temple, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

AUSTIN D. BROWN....Manchester.....POTENTATE
John Westley Geiger.....Marion.....Recorder

Kaaba Temple, Davenport, Iowa.

GEO. F. WHITE.....Davenport.....POTENTATE
C. J. Brown.....Davenport.....Recorder

Tangier Temple, Omaha, Nebraska.

H. HARDY.....Omaha.....POTENTATE
Louis E. Wettling.....Box 523, Omaha.....Recorder

EDITORIAL NOTES

Iowa Masons are, or ought to be, intelligent enough to do their own thinking.

Give us more Masonic LORE and we can shift along with less Masonic LAW.

The number of reading Masons is just in proportion as the facts are of use to them in their search for light.

What necessity is there for some one to be always telling all the others who shall be exalted and who abased?

We've gone to seed on the elaboration of a criminal Masonic code, while weightier matters have been neglected.

If Brother Bun F. Price thinks $20 for the degrees is "too cheap to be good" how does he rate the "Mason at sight?"

Will anybody tell us why any particular profession shall figure in the affairs of Masonic bodies, grand or subordinate?

Masonry is not the vehicle of any church.

The rights, lights and benefits of Masonry should be kept clean from political methods.

We expect to do some hustling in the near future and when we start out it will be for all there is in it for the cause we represent.

Why should not Masonry progress toward popular government? It is the spirit of the age, and it is one of the blessed spirits too.

We can tell the believers in the prerogative of a grand master to "make a Mason at sight" what can knock it silly in Iowa—the grand lodge.

The method of preaching one kind of gospel and practicing another is bearing its fruit, and no wonder we hear of a new protestantism in these days.

Discourage the use of the Masonic tribunal for the taking of revenge and punishment, and encourage higher Masonic education and the end will be peace.

The interest of the craft will arouse to the call of duty as quickly as any of the benevolent professions that think a dollar ought to keep a widow a whole lifetime.

Is it not about time we get down to plain Masonic business. Some sections of the code are either too dense or to condensed, while others might well be less elaborate.

When Brother John A. Post of Idaho, says that there is any authority for the statement that there are nearly fifteen million Masons, he's off; just fourteen millions.

If we ever succeed in making this journal all we have in mind to make it we will have the consciousness of doing as much as any man for the cause of Masonry in this state.

The proposition to give this magizine at half rates has not done as much for us as it should. It has done something, but it should have given us thousands instead of hundreds of new names.

The mission of Freemasonry as the oldest of the fraternal orders, is to lead men to attend not only to the attainment of its truths—but to practice the more important virtues of the homes they are responsible for and protect living or dead.

The majority sentiment among Masonic writers and opinionists are opposed to the "divine right" of Grand Masters to "make Masons at sight." Why don't the Grand Lodges intradict it by law—Let that and the one-black-ball heresy go together. Rouse mit em!

If more attention were given to the symbolic degrees—more time required to elapse ere one could rush into co-ordinate bodies, and in fact more disposition to accept the finality that the Blue Lodge IS ALL of Ancient Craft Masonry it would do good to the lodge and no harm to the other bodies.

The prospects are that we will combine this journal with either one we can buy or start and when it happens you will hear of it. We expect to stay right on in Iowa. We have been here fourteen years, and we like it, we hope to make our final bed in its blessed soil, and we will have our share of the good yet.

"The Keystone" thinks "the making of a Mason (the E. A. degree), is the foundation of all Masonic teachings, the principles of Masonic conduct, and the precepts for Masonic practice." All this may have much of truth to sustain it, but we think that the raising of a fellow craft to the sublime degree of a master Mason is the greater because it is symbolic of his having attained the full privileges of a full grown man the last and highest degree of Ancient Craft Masonry.

THE LODGES.

Trojan Lodge, 548, is one of the most prosperous among the young lodges of Iowa; it is located at Marion.

The Lodges are at their accustomed Trestleboards and the voice of the inquirer after light is heard in the land.

In these days of Klondyke fever and gold hunger it is a pleasant variation to hear of the progress of the lodges of Iowa in the Masonic Art.

P.G. M. Ralph G. Phelps is still quite feeble, and though recovering, it is but slowly. He is one of God's noblemen and twenty-five thousand Iowa Masons love him.

The new Temple has now reached its full height, and will be under roof before long. The dedication is set for an early winter date, possibly St. John's Day, December 27th.

The progress of some organizations is always backwards; the only medicine we know of for such is a dose of QUIETUS and the time is not far off when it will be administered, or we miss guess.

The schools will soon be in full swing again and brother "Van" will be trying to drill the awkward squad how to "split" to the right and left on the square and teach the stewards and deacons how to hold their rods "perpendicular," straight up and down.

GRAND CUSTODIAN'S LETTER.

CEDAR FALLS, IOWA, Oct. 4th, 1897.

Dear Brother Geiger:

Two or three months have passed away since last I wrote you, and during that time I have had the pleasure of an outing at the Atlantic coast, which I think has to some extent renewed my health and strength. During my trip east Amity lodge, No. 103, A. F. & A. M. of Jersey City, N. J. extended to me a reception which was attended by nearly or quite two hundred and fifty of the brethern of that lodge and other city lodges.

This lodge was started by my brother, Isaac Van Saun, who was its first master, and later my nephew and my son Frank became masters. I was the recipient of the kind attention of the brethern and the evening was enjoyed by all present. Since my return to Iowa, I have visited Clinton lodge, No. 15 at Fairfield, and attended their semi-centennial on September 15th, at a public gathering in their opera house, which was largely attended by the brethern of that and near by lodges, together with many invited guests. The gathering was a grand success, at which addresses were made by Bro. Schwartz of Burlington, and other brethern in attendance, interspersed

with excellent music. The success of the entertainment was due to the indefatigable efforts of Bros. Chester, Williamson, Wells and others. Long may Clinton lodge No. 15 survive and be a beacon light of Masonry in that community.

I am unable at this writing to give you a list of appointments for this month, for the reason that the calls already received are scattered all over the state. I have on my list calls from Ocheyedan, Allison, Kalona, Vail, Oakland, Maxwell, Armstrong and several others verbally given.

It would be a great convenience to me could I receive calls earlier in the season, so as to avoid traveling over the same territory more than once, but I must take them as best I can.

Yours Fraternally,
GEO. B. VAN SAUN,
Visiting Custodian.

THE MYSTIC SHRINE.

Hear those tinkling bells.

They are the caravans moving.

El Kahir is away to the Northwest—a double-header.

Kaaba is at Oskaloosa—must be the third or fourth time.

The echoes report another trip for El-Kahir to the north-west soon.

Tangier has gone and done it to the Freemonters—a good time had.

The Recorder of El-Kahir will try to issue a roster in the near future.

Don't fail to read the circulars to be sent out by the Recorder of El-Kahir soon.

Now let El-Kahirites save up their shekels for the annual meeting in December.

Newly created Nobles need this journal—they can have it for HALF RATES, fifty cents a year.

The passports for 1898 do not cost any thing extra, and are good in any Temple of the order.

El-Riad yanked the Yankton people out of the hot sand, and all these ructions happened within the dates of October 1st to 7th.

The announcement of last month was away off—we did not go to Webster City at all till October 6th, and then we just took the air ship and lit out for Sioux City, where we were booked for the 7th. The chronicles of this trip will be found hereinafter.

From the regions beyond we hear of the going of richly laden caravans to the cool mountains of New Hampshire, and the green hills of Vermont, down even unto the crowded markets of the old Mecca, and the peaceful Philadelphia. Yea, even unto the far mountains of the Niwot, where much gold abounds, where Eljebel rusticates among the higher altitudes, and even beyond that where Charlie Fields has climate to burn. Ach mein Chrachus! it vas macknificent any how.

EL-KAHIR'S DOUBLE HEADER.

After the long, hot summer it was a pleasant diversion to have the camels brought in from the pasture and groomed for the trip across the desert. All preparations were made for a good time and we had it.

Wednesday, October 6th, the caravan formed at the new union station with paraphernalia and provender. The run to Webster City was by the B. C. R. & N. to Iowa Falls where our Potentate and his attendants joined us. Dinner was served on board. Arrived at Webster City, the city was turned over to us and our pleasures. The elegant Elks' Hall, Odd Fellows' Hall, Masonic Temple, the Armory and the Wilson House were taxed for room throughout. Twenty-seven candidates were created Nobles and a splendid banquet followed.

At 2:30 a. m. October 7th, the Arabs had "silently folded their tents and stolen away" in a luxurious sleeper toward the west. At various points, additions were made to our number till at LeMars the guardians of the famous camel "Tom Adamson" came on board and sleep ceased. At Sioux City the Mondamin was headquarters—the Carnival was on, the sights were many and the pleasures great. At 7 p. m. the Potentate's chariot was followed through the main streets by a long Arabic procession to the armory, where thirty-two candidates were created in the Moslem style. A sumptious lunch was served in vaudeville style by the ladies of Unity Church in Masonic Hall. The gentlemen of the local committees in both cities have made our work easy and the "double-header" will long be remembered as red letter days in our Arabic callendar.

THE ROYAL ARCH.

Missouri mourns the death of P. M. I. G. M., Wm. H. Stansbury. He passed away August 23, 1897.

Maybe the time will come when the Companions who sign charges unwittingly will walk up to the Captain's office and explain.

Companion Josiah H. Drummond of Maine is to deliver the Centennial address to the General Grand Chapter in Baltimore this month.

By the time this reaches our readers the Grand Council of Iowa, headed by the G. H. P. will be in the "Monumental City," attending the General Grand Chapter of the Order.

The representatives of Iowa can go down to the oyster dock in Baltimore and eat bivalves, while the G. G. Council of the Cryptic degrees is in session. They will not be in IT.

The Grand High Priest instituted Cyrene Chapter 126 at Adair, and installed the officers September 8th. He performed the same office for Joshua Chapter 127 at Ames on the 9th.

The Chapter at Perry had a good time in the Royal Arch on Wednesday night September 22. Thirty-seven sat down to a sumptuous banquet after the work. Perry is all right any time.

We hear strong talk of a new Chapter in the near neighborhood, and if it is gone for it will come. The Companions of Iowa want the Capitular degrees attended to, not used as a vehicle of other isms.

The Grand High Priest M. E. Companion W. D. Irvine and his Grand Council are to be in attendance at the General Grand Chapter at Baltimore October 12-14. They leave on the 8th.

COMMANDERIES.

Sound the Assembly, Fall is here.

Masonic and Knight Templar Day at the Tennessee Centennial is on October 14th and the program is a good one.

Missouri is checking up the commanderies on the enforcement of the law in regard to uniforms. General Order No. 3, is at the head of the lines.

The arrangements are in full swing for the fixing of the headquarters for Iowa at Pittsburg, at an early date.

The Grand Commandery of Illinois mourns the loss by death of Past Grand Commander Jerome R. Gorin, September 1st, 1897.

Whoever thinks Pittsburg too small to care for the Trienniel Conclave, wants to send to Sir James E. Stevenson for one of those splendid maps, a copy of which we have before us.

The coming Triennial may portend just how much the appointment of our Fratre Soule means in the direction of the greatest route on earth to take a full train through to the conclave or bust. By the way if those Boston people are through with that refrigerator left there in 1895, Olin has use for it on that Triennial train next summer.

Among the items of interest this month we are pleased to announce that P. G. Commander E. O. Soule, one of nature's noblemen and a friend for years has been promoted to the position of General Agent of the passenger department of the B. C. R. & N. and that he is under the authority of that other Past Grand Commander, Sir James Morton, the general passenger and ticket agent of the same road. We shall have the handsome face of Sir Olin to adorn our front page next month.

SIMILARITY.

We know it has been and is the speculative argument that Masonry is a law unto itself and that the ordinary rules of jurisprudence do not apply there. This is only partially true; there must always be a sense in which every institution based upon the great light of Masonry is similar in its workings to all other departments under the same moral code. When flagrant injustice is liable to be done, when men make it their open boast for a long time that their pursuit of a given end will be carried into this body or that because "*we have a majority there,*" it places that body under the same law as any other encroaching character.

DO YOU WANT GOLD?

Everyone desires to keep informed on Yukon, the Klondyke and Alaskan gold fields. Send 10c. for large Compendium of vast information and big color map to Hamilton Pub. Co., Indianapolis, Ind.

THE SCOTTISH RITE.

The Consistorial bodies at Clinton are the strongest in the state.

The Davenport bodies are the youngest but by no means the least vigorous.

Palmoni Lodge of Perfection of Buffalo, N. Y. held a regular meeting October 1, 1897.

Illustrious Prince M. S. Rizer has resigned his position as assistant superintendent of the C. & N. W. at Clinton, to go into some other line of business.

We have it from round about sources that the reunion at Des Moines was a big success, as it deserved to be. The report that a Shrine meeting was in progress while significant, was not correct.

The bodies of the Rite in the valley of Cedar Rapids will attend to business just as soon as they get into their new quarters. Look out for the new year and the stirring of the leaves of the Records as the new names are being added.

OUR BOOK TABLE.

The proceedings of the Grand Commandery of Iowa came to hand just after our last number was out. They are uniform with former years and as usual fine in every way.

"The Freemasons' Repository" Providence R. I. for June, 1897, had a fine article on Iowa's Masonic Library, in which the portrait of the venerable founder, and interior views were given. We thank Dr. Ruff for his evident intention to exchange with us.

Mrs. Frederick Schwatka, widow of the great Alaska explorer, and her husband's companion in his explorations, has a finely illustrated article in the October Midland Monthly (Des Moines), entitled, "Around about Alaska's Metropolis," with several full page pictures. A beautifully illustrated sketch of life in Cairo, Egypt, is given first place in this number, with "The Queen of the Harem" as a frontispiece. "Anti-Polygamy Mormonism," including an interview with Prophet Joseph Smith, Jr., is the best sketch of the Recognized Church of Latter Day Saints ever given to the public. It includes many views and valuable portraits. The Home Themes, Women's Club Department, Fiction Department and the Editorial Department are unusually complete. In "Grant's Life in the West," this month, the scene is shifted from St. Louis to Galena.

DR. PARVIN'S COUNT.

Grand Secretary Parvin, librarian of the most complete Masonic library in the world, makes, from what he deems reliable data, the following estimate of the number of Free Masons in the world: United States, 750,000; Canada 35,000; England, Scotland, Ireland and the colonies, 215,000; non-affiliated Masons (estimated) 210,000—total 1,210,000. In foreign countries, North America, Mexico and West Indies, 155,000; European, African and South American nations, 130,000 Grand total, 1,365,000. We are of the opinion that these figures are too low, yet we would not dispute Bro. Parvin's estimates, his facilities for obtaining accurate data being unexcelled.—*Masonic Chronicle.*

Following this item we noticed in the "Idaho Mason" the statement of Bro. John A. Post that "It is stated upon claimed authority, that the Masonic Order among the enlightened people of the world at this time (1895) numbers nearly *fifteen* millions." Well, if Dr. Parvin's count is too low, how is this for high?

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